

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2007 Enduring Achievement Award Recipient Profile

Winner: Ursula Poepel

Category: Enduring Achievement

Project: Removing invasive species and parkland donation

Nominator(s): Pender Islands Conservancy Association

Project Description: Ursula Poepel has been removing invasive plant species from Pender Island's roadsides and parks since she moved to the island in 1986. Now in her 70's, Ursula still pulls broom and thistles almost every day. Last year she removed more than 150 thistles in front of the new fire hall in one work session. She is a well-known roadside sight on Pender and has even had a poem written about her broom-pulling ways. She regularly takes part in "broom bashes" organized by the local Pender Island Park Commission and the Pender Islands Conservancy Association and she is always there for beach cleanup days. Ursula is also a vital member of many organizations on Pender Island. Her tireless efforts at removing broom, gorse and thistles has encouraged many Penderites to remove invasive plant species from their properties.

In addition, this past year Ursula donated .8 acres of land to the Pender Island Parks Commission for a local park at the end of Schooner Way. She wanted to donate the land to preserve it for the community to enjoy.